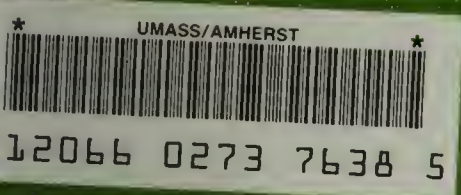


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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL 1979

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS  
COLLECTION

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING

ANNUAL REPORT - FISCAL 1979

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF REPORT

Through this document, the Board of Registration in Nursing complies with Section 78 Chapter 112, General Laws, which requires the Board to "make an annual report of the condition of nursing in the Commonwealth." The report covers the fiscal year period from July 1, 1978 through June 30, 1979.

PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS OF BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN NURSING

The Board of Registration in Nursing, an administrative agency within the governmental organization of the Commonwealth, is delegated the responsibility for implementation of those statutes and sections of statutes that provide legal control of nursing practice. The fundamental purpose of the Board is to safeguard the welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth who require the services of professional and practical nurses.

To fulfill its purpose, the Board has two major functions:

Licensure of professional and practical nurses.

Determination and maintenance of nursing education standards that are basic to licensure of safe practitioners through approval of nursing education programs.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

Qualifications for membership are established by Section 13, Chapter 13, General Laws, as amended. Section 13 provides that the Board membership shall consist of eight members, each a resident of the Commonwealth, appointed by the Governor. One member of the Board shall be a representative of the public. Five members shall be registered nurses, each a graduate of a different approved school for nurses. At the time of appointment one registered nurse shall be on the teaching staff of a collegiate school for nurses, one shall be on the teaching staff of a diploma school for nurses, one shall be on the nursing administration staff of a duly licensed hospital, one shall be in the field of public health, and one on the teaching staff of a practical vocational school of nursing. Two members of the Board shall be licensed practical nurses. As the term of office expires, his successor shall be appointed for a term of six years, but no member shall be appointed for two consecutive terms. In making the original appointments to the present Board, the Governor appointed two members for a term of three years, three members for a term of four years, and three members for a term of six years.

Membership during the period covered by the report is outlined below:

<u>NAME OF MEMBER</u>	<u>REPRESENTATION</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Anne Hargreaves	Public Health	1983
Benito Barsanti	Public Member	1983
Sophia Bousquet	Licensed Practical Nurse	1981



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Frances Daigneault	Teaching Staff of Practical Nursing School	1981
Mary O'Leary	Teaching Staff of Collegiate School	1980
Mary Lou DiGiacomo	Nursing Service	1980
Jean Thorne	Licensed Practical Nurse	1983
Catherine Tower	Teaching Staff of Diploma School	1981

Board members held scheduled meetings during the year with a quorum being established at all meetings. Minutes of each meeting are on file at Board of Registration in Nursing office.

At the annual meeting in October 1978, Anne Hargreaves was elected Chairman and Catherine Tower was elected Vice-Chairman.

#### MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF

#### YEAR HIRED

Martha Ginty, R.N., M.Ed., Executive Secretary	October 1977
Genevieve Monaghan, R.N., M.S., Supervisor	August 1967
Eleanor Burke, R.N., M.S., Supervisor	May 1973
Beatrice Ames, R.N., M.S., Supervisor	January 1978

#### MEMBERSHIP OF CLERICAL STAFF

#### YEAR HIRED

Helen Hill, Head Clerk	1944
Mabel Dufault, Principal Clerk	1973
Isabelle Ryan, Principal Clerk	1967
Margaret Zevitas, Senior Clerk Typist	1966
Sarah Lebewohl, Junior Clerk	1966
Ruth Dann, Junior Clerk	1977
Pamela Francisco, Senior Clerk	1978
Denise Quirk, Junior Clerk	1978

#### BOARD ACTIVITIES:

#### MEETINGS:

During the Fiscal year July 1, 1978 to June 30, 1979 the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing held 12 regular meetings and several additional informal meetings. As prescribed by law three of these meetings, October, January and April were held at the Board of Registration office at 100 Cambridge St., Boston, Massachusetts. The remaining meetings followed a pattern established the previous year were held in various sites throughout the state. Areas visited were: Nantucket, Lowell, Worcester, Amherst, Springfield, Berkshire, Concord and New Bedford.

#### APPOINTMENTS TO STAFF

There were no additional appointments to the staff during this Fiscal year, however, because of the pressing need for a registrar, one of the Supervisors served as acting Registrar.

#### ADOPTION OF POLICIES AND/OR DECISIONS OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Determined the legality of nurse practitioners signing patients notes and clinical medical records without the counter signature of the physician.





- Established that revocation of a license to practice nursing in Massachusetts shall be based upon issues directly related to nursing practice and sexual preference shall not be considered grounds for action against a licensee.
- Adopted a policy that Graduate nurses are expected to perform any procedures and assume all responsibilities that a registered nurse performs provided she performs such services under the supervision of a registered professional nurse who is on the premises.
- Made a determination that under provision of statutory law a nurse cannot carry out orders written by a physician assistant.
- Reaffirmed the position that nurses may follow orders from a physician or dentist.
- Established that the practice of nurses aides filling insulin syringes is in violation of the Nurse Practice Act as well as violating the fundamentals of pharmacology.
- Rendered an opinion that in line with the administration of medications by the unit dose system it is acceptable practice for nurses to administer medications (i.e. insulin) prefilled by a registered pharmacist and labeled in unit doses.
- Agreed that operating room technicians should not be employed in the capacity of circulating nurses and that the institution should clearly delineate the respective roles of the operating room nurse and that of a technician.
- Made a determination that the review and rewriting of medication orders by a nurse is not an act commonly taught in the basic educational nursing program and should not be recognized as a nursing act.
- Rendered an opinion that nurses should not be appointed to or be members of the staff.
- Rendered an opinion that pediatric nurse practitioners should not be under the supervision of physicians except for purely medical practice.
- Established that nurses notes should be signed by nurses and do not require the counter signature of a physician.
- Agreed that Health, Education, Welfare be informed that nurses should not be classified as Physician extenders because nurses are not extenders, are not necessarily employed by a physician, and are licensed separately. Members of the Board view the nurse in the expanded role, not as a physician extender but rather as a client extender.
- Determined that a graduate nurse must work under the Supervision of a registered nurse who must be actually on the premises.
- Agreed that the spirit of the law in the phrase "withdrew in good standing" when applied to a nurse who withdrew from a program of nursing was to allow those students that had passed courses equivalent to those required in a Licensed Practical Nurse program be allowed to sit for the Licensed Practical Nurse examination.
- Reviewed and requested because of 10 year time span another opinion from the Attorney General's office to determine whether a graduate from another state who had not filed to take the State Board Test Pool Examination would be allowed to work in Massachusetts during the graduate period.
- Disapproved the practice of Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses assuming the activation of the electro-surgical unit during surgical procedures
- Adopted a policy that allows foreign educated Licensed Practical Nurses to take an equivalent course, i.e. obstetric in any approved Licensed Practical Nurse school, in order to meet eligibility requirements for State Board Test Pool Examination.
- Approved the establishment of a pilot foot care program for the elderly.
- Took under advisement for further study the appropriateness of an Registered Nurse appearing on television as a representative of Registered Nurses to advertise vitamin products.
- Determined that out of state Registered Nurses should not receive licensure in Massachusetts if they were to have any patient contact during the first 30 days of a critical care courses.
- Determined that it was within the scope of nursing for a nurse to monitor a drip for the purpose of anesthesia, provided that a dentist was available or on call within the hospital for consultation at all times.





- Disapproved of registered professional nurses acting as "first assistants" in retracting the retina during major eye surgery.
- Voted to establish an advisory committee on anesthesia.
- Reviewed a purposed job-description of a rehabilitation nurse for the Department Public Health.
- Approved a request to allow students enrolled in a Special Masters Program in Occupational Health Nursing given by the University of Cincinnati to perform specific routine nursing tasks under the direction of a Physician and a faculty member duly licensed to practice nursing in Massachusetts.
- Voted to approve the additional requirement that an foreign educated Registered Nurse must pass the qualifying examination given by the Commission on Foreign Graduates before they are eligible for a temporary certificate to practice professional nursing.
- Approved a non-discriminatory policy with regard to handicaps that will be disseminated to all schools under the jurisdiction of the Board of Registration in Nursing.
- Voted to allow applications from Massachusetts residents who graduated from out of state schools an extension of the deadline date for verification.
- Requested an organizational chart specifying the lines of authority as it relates to the Board of Registration in Nursing and the Office of Consumer Affairs.
- Made a determination that passing the "eleventh grade" in Montreal was the equivalent to graduation from high school in the United States.
- Determined that in a school setting an Licensed Practical Nurse does not have to function under the direct supervision of a physician, dentist or nurse. In the school setting she should function under guidelines established by the school system and within the parameters of the generic Licensed Practical Nurse program.
- Affirmed that "certified nurses" must be supervised by registered nurses direct in the nursing unit and would therefore not be allowed to act as a charge nurse.
- Recommended that non-conditional nursing roles still be under nursing services.
- Recommended that a petition paper be sent to Health, Education, and Welfare voicing disapproval of use of Scrub Technicians as circulating nurses in the operating room.
- Reviewed and proposed changes to the draft of Rules and Regulations for the nurse in the expanded role.
- Reviewed and proposed changes to draft of Continuing Education Regulations.
- Appointed a sub-committee to develop definition of Licensed Practical Nurse.
- Approved revision of application for State Board Test Pool Examination.
- Appointed a sub-committee to deal with handicapped students.

#### REVIEW OF LEGISLATION:

- Introduced legislation to clarify the Board of Registration in Nursing power to adopt Rules and Regulations.
- Received an opinion from Attorney General that nurses are allowed to advertise.
- All members of the Board of Registration in Nursing complied with the disclosure law relative to conflict of interest.
- Reviewed legislation redesignating "Podiatrists" as physicians in relation to the controlled substance act.
- Established legislation relative to qualifying examination for foreign educated nurses.
- Adopted definition of Registered Nurse
- Adopted definition of Licensed Practical Nurse
- Supported Bill #285 - to broaden scope of Registrar
- Supported Bill #291 - to increase salary of the members of the Board.





#### IN ADDITION THE BOARD HAS:

- Obtained permission from Criminal History Board to Criminal Records.
- Requested that the Executive Secretary attend the National Council of State Boards in Rhode Island, and to Annual Conference on Professions in New York.
- Suggested an interorganizational committee on nursing to discuss master planning.
- Signed contract for continuation of State Board Test Pool Examination from the National Council of State Boards.
- Signed letter of agreement between Department of Public Health and Board of Registration in Nursing to collect information on Health Professionals.

#### IN ADDITION THE BOARD HAS:

- Reviewed surveys and reports relative to both old and new nursing programs.
- Reviewed and critiqued proposed questions for future State Board Test Pool Examination questions.
- Asked for more information on the employment of critical care technicians.
- Took action on problem applications for the State Board Test Pool Examination and licensure.
- Met with Ways & Means to discuss budget difficulties.
- Established the passing score on State Board Test Pool Examination as "350".
- Reviewed draft submitted by Task Force of Revisions to the Registered Nurse and Licensed Practical Nurse Rules and Regulations Governing nursing programs.
- Continued to hold meetings with Board of Medicine to review revisions of Rules and Regulations of Nurse in the Expanded Role.

#### FUTURE ISSUE TO BE ADDRESSED

- Acceptance of a passing grade on the Canadian National State Board Test Examination for purpose of endorsement.
- Explore the avenues for acquiring additional staffing due to Continuing Education and Expanded Role requirements.
- Explore the concept of nurses writing prescriptions
- Review legislation relative to an inactive status for nursing in Massachusetts.
- Review legislation relative to requiring review courses if a licensee has not been active in nursing for a period of time and wishes to re-enter the nursing field.
- Investigate the possibility of hiring a testing service to administer the State Board Test Pool Examination.

#### STAFF ACTIVITIES:

- Administering State Board Test Pool Examinations
- Making site visits to Schools of Nursing
- Participating in workshops, seminars and task force committees
- Preparing survey and progress reports
- One staff member served as advisor on Task Force for Revision of Rules and Regulations Governing Registered Nurse Schools
- One staff member served as advisor on Task Force for Revision of Rules and Regulations Governing Licensed Practical Nurse Schools.
- One staff member served as liaison person between the Continuing Education Advisory committee and the Board of Registration in Nursing.



IN ADDITION THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY HAS:

- Represented the Board of Registration in Nursing at meetings, conferences, workshops etc.
- Visited schools on speaking engagements
- Dealt with innumerable phone calls
- Interviewed applicants for licensure
- Participated in seminars
- Prepared the budget and attended budget hearings
- Testified in favor and/or opposition to legislation
- Served on Massachusetts Nurse Association Continuing Education committee.
- Conducted interviews for the position of investigator, supervisor and additional clerical help.

NURSING EDUCATION:

The Board of Registration in Nursing is the legal accrediting (approval) agency for nursing education programs preparing professional and practical nurses who are eligible for admission to the licensure procedure.

On September 30, 1978 a total \_\_\_\_\_ students were enrolled in nursing education programs.

<u>PROGRAMS</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>INCREASE/DECREASE FROM 1977</u>
Registered Nurse Program	<u>9952</u>	_____
Licensed Practical Nurse	_____	_____

This represents a total decrease of \_\_\_\_\_

There are three types of programs preparing professional nurses:

1. Schools of Nursing grant a DIPLOMA - administered by a hospital corporation.
2. Schools of Nursing grant a ASSOCIATE DEGREE - administered by a junior or community college.
3. Schools of Nursing grant a BACCALAUREATE DEGREE administered by a senior college or university.

<u>TYPE OF PROGRAMS</u>	<u>NUMBER OF SCHOOLS</u>		
	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>
DIPLOMA	26	22	19
ASSOCIATE DEGREE	20	20	20
BACCALAUREATE DEGREE	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>
	57	53	50

GRADUATES

DIPLOMA	1193	1116	1111
ASSOCIATE DEGREE	1006	1027	1027
BACCALAUREATE DEGREE	<u>979</u>	<u>911</u>	<u>911</u>
	3178	3054	3049

SCHOOL CLOSURES: (REGISTERED NURSE)

<u>SCHOOLS</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE OF CLOSURE</u>
Whidden Memorial Hospital - Diploma	Everett	1979





Quincy City Hospital - Diploma  
Lynn Hospital - Diploma

Quincy  
Lynn

1979  
1979

#### LETTERS OF INTENT TO OPEN SCHOOLS

#### ACTION

Curry College - Baccalaureate Program  
Quincy Junior College - Associate Degree Program  
Bunker Hill Junior College - Associate Degree Program  
Massachusetts General Hospital - Masters Degree

Accepted  
Accepted  
Accepted  
Accepted

#### NEW SCHOOLS OPENED:

one

#### SCHOOL SURVEYS:

Section 81A Chapter 112 General Laws as amended authorize the Board of Registration in Nursing to conduct a Survey to inspect schools of professional and practical nursing for approval purposes. Traditionally the survey includes a site usually of three - four days duration. Current Board regulations provide that each program be inspected every five years. Implementation of this requirement has not always been met due to lack of staff to carry out the mandate, however, a concerted effort has been made to bring all schools up to-date. During this fiscal year the following schools were surveyed:

#### SURVEYS OF SCHOOLS OF PROFESSIONAL NURSING

#### BOARD ACTION

Worcester Hahnemann Hospital - Diploma Program  
Brockton Hospital - Diploma Program  
Lowell General Hospital - Diploma Program  
Peter Bent Brigham Hospital - Diploma Program  
Lawrence Memorial Hospital - Diploma Program  
Curry College - Associate Degree  
Bristol Community College - Associate Degree  
Springfield Technical Community College - Associate Degree  
Boston University - Baccalaureate Program  
Quincy Junior College - Associate Degree  
Curry College - Baccalaureate Program

Full Approval  
Full Approval  
Full Approval  
Full Approval  
Full Approval  
Full Approval  
Full Approval  
Full Approval  
Initial Approval  
Initial Approval

#### CURRICULUM REVISION

#### BOARD ACTION

Atlantic Union College - Associate Degree  
Southeastern Massachusetts University - Baccalaureate Program  
American International College - Baccalaureate Program

Approved  
Approved  
Approved

#### PROGRESS REPORTS

#### BOARD ACTION

Berkshire Community College - Associate Degree  
Bunker Hill Community College - Associate Degree  
Boston College - Baccalaureate Degree

Approved  
Approved  
Approved

#### CLINICAL AGENCIES SURVEYED

#### BOARD ACTION

Nashoba Community Hospital - Ayer  
Hubbard Regional Hospital - Webster

Approved  
Approved



State Rehabilitation Facility - Billerica  
 Taunton Visiting Nurse's Association - Canton  
 Edgemere Nursing Home - Taunton  
 Oakwood Nursing Home - Webster  
 Hempstead Hospital - New Hampshire

Approved  
 Approved  
 Approved  
 Approved  
 Approved

#### SCHOOLS OF PRACTICAL NURSING:

TYPE OF PROGRAM	1977	<u>NUMBER OF SCHOOLS</u>	
		1978	1979
Vocational	23		23
Non-Vocational	9		8
	<u>32</u>		<u>31</u>

#### GRADUATES:

Vocational	747
Non-Vocational	391
	<u>1138</u>

#### SURVEYS OF SCHOOLS OF PRACTICAL NURSING

	<u>BOARD ACTION</u>
Dean Vocational School	Full Approval
Department of Health and Hospitals	Full Approval
Youville Hospital	Full Approval
Northeast Vocational School	Full Approval

#### PROGRESS REPORT:

	<u>BOARD ACTION</u>
Smith Vocational School	Approved

#### CURRICULUM REVISIONS

	<u>BOARD ACTION</u>
Smith Vocational School	Approved

#### EXAMINATIONS:

During 1978 - 1979 fiscal year 4 examinations were conducted, two for the professional nurse licensure in July and February, two for practical nurse licensure in October and April. A total of 5662 candidates were examined, 4408 for professional nursing and 1254 for practical nursing. Of these 4916 were taking the test for the first time and 745 were repeating the examination.

The following table indicates the performance of the candidates from all sources.

<u>CANDIDATES</u>	<u>PROFESSIONAL</u>	<u>PRACTICAL</u>
First Time	3707	1209
Repeaters	701	45





JULY 1978 - JUNE 30, 1979

REGISTERED NURSE EXAMINATION

	<u>PASS</u>	<u>FIRST TIME</u>		<u>PASS</u>	<u>REPEATERS</u>	
		<u>FAIL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>FAIL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOLS	2845	369	3214	326	158	484
OUT OF STATE	344	69	413	57	57	84
OUT OF COUNTRY	36	44	80	30	103	133

PRACTICAL NURSE EXAMINATION

	<u>PASS</u>	<u>FIRST TIME</u>		<u>PASS</u>	<u>REPEATERS</u>	
		<u>FAIL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>FAIL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOLS	1035	27	1062	10	22	32
OUT OF STATE	51	5	56	1	4	5
OUT OF COUNTRY	31	16	47	3	3	6

THE TABLE BELOW INDICATES THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CANDIDATES OVER THE PAST 5 YEARS:

<u>REGISTERED NURSE</u>		<u>LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE</u>	
1975-----	3204	1975-----	1363
1976-----	3398	1976-----	1250
1977-----	3931	1977-----	1212
1978-----	4339	1978-----	1239
1979-----	4408	1979-----	1254

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN RELATION TO STATE BOARD TEST POOL EXAMINATION:

- insufficient records
- inability to obtain records from Iron Curtain countries
- Quebec Nurses endorsements
- request to transpose answers on answer sheets - refused
- discussion of problems in testing approximate 3400 applicants at one site
- failure of rental agency honoring agreement to have testing site
- acceptance of scores from New Jersey Board on behalf of applicant

ANNUAL DATA ON REGISTRATION:

licensure of a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse from another state to practice nursing in Massachusetts.

CERTIFIED STATEMENTS:

Licensure by endorsement provides that the Board of Nursing of original licensure provide a certified statement to another Board of Nursing verifying that the applicant for endorsement has been validly licensed in the original state.

APPLICANTS FROM THE NEW YORK EXTERNAL DEGREE PROGRAM:

Endorsed	<u>4</u>
Vetoed	<u>1</u>



## REGISTERED NURSE

DATE	EXAMINATION	ENDORSE	RENEWALS	CERTIFIED STATEMENTS	TOTAL
1977	3931	1262	7119	3774	12289
1978	4339	1547	80,239	1733	86076
1979	4218	1633	39767	4324	49942

## LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

DATE	EXAMINATION	ENDORSE	RENEWALS	CERTIFIED STATEMENTS	TOTAL
1977	1212	242	23,232	886	24647
1978	1245	234	1,386	874	2854
1979	2021	237	15,106	1064	18428

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Nursing Fees:	EXAMINATIONS.....\$30.00
	ENDORSEMENT.....\$50.00
	CERTIFICATION.....\$30.00
	CERTIFIED STATEMENTS.....\$ 2.00
	RENEWALS.....\$ 6.00
	(REGISTERED NURSE AND LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE)

### ADJUDICATORY:

The Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing is charged with enforcing the laws governing the practice of nursing in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, thereby protecting the public from incompetent or illegal practitioners of nursing.

For the last quarter of 1979, the Board obtained its own investigator and did not have to rely on the Division of Registration for investigative assistance. It should be noted however, that during the two year tenure of this Board, and despite scores of documented requests for investigative assistance, the Division of Registration never provided any.

### COMPLAINTS:

The total number of original written complaints received in annual 1979 was 64. Also, 22 complaints which had been referred to the Division of Registration in 1978 and not acted upon, were investigated and settled.

Of these 86 complaints, 6% remain open to investigation and 94% were closed or are in formal adjudicatory proceedings.

It should be noted that while the Board received 16% more complaints in 1979 than in 1978, it was able to reduce its complaint carry over ratio from 30% to 6% during the same period.

There was clearly an accelerating number of complaints being received by the Board toward the close of 1979. This trend may be attributed to the addition of an investigator and the Board's consistently swift and decisive response to complaints. This trend, which shows no sign of abatement should produce over 200 complaints in 1980. If the growth rate continues to accelerate the figure could reach 400 complaints. In either case, this data mandates a further commitment of staff and resources to the Board's investigative function.





TYPES OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED WERE:

- drug use, theft, substitution
- illegal sale of drugs
- failure to follow M.D. orders
- physical, verbal abuse of patients
- incompetency, insanity
- theft of money
- theft uttering prescriptions
- out of state revocations
- billing matters
- quality of patient care
- imposters
- mischarting and administering medications
- failure to take life saving measures
- sexual abuse of patient
- bizzare conduct

DISCIPLINARY ACTS SUMMARY 1979

Summary Suspension	4
Suspension	6
Revocation	2
Annulment	0
Voluntary Surrender	7
Order to Show Cause	4
Reprimand	2
Probation	1
Hold Renewal (Lapse)	9
Pending	1
Refer to Attorney General for Prosecution	9
	<u>45</u>







